

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
Office of Communications and Public Involvement
999 18th Street, Suite 500
Denver, CO 80202

Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Planning and Public Affairs
168 North, 1950 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84116



Environmental News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 12, 1998

CAROL SISCO, UDEQ 801-536-4484
SONYA PENNOCK, EPA, Region 8 303-312-6600
PAULA BRUIN, EPA, Region 9 415-744-1587

A PERCHLORATE FORUM WILL BE HELD IN SALT LAKE CITY

Denver—One of two national public forums to discuss potential environmental perchlorate contamination will be held later this month in Salt Lake City. Perchlorate has been detected in public water supply wells in California, Utah, Texas, New York, Maryland and Arkansas.

Perchlorate contamination became an issue in Utah last year when rocket motor builder Alliant Techsystems, formerly Hercules, discovered elevated levels of the chemical in 400-foot-deep wells on its property in West Valley City, west of Salt Lake City. Lower levels were found at Kennecott Utah Copper's property where officials provided employees with bottled water. Low perchlorate levels also were found in nearby drinking water wells in the Magna area.

Utah will use data gathered by a national perchlorate working group to decide if a perchlorate health standard is needed there.

The Utah forum will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, Tuesday, August 25, 1998, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, 168 N. 1950 West, Room 101. An evening session from 7-9 p.m. will be held in Magna, Utah, at the Magna Senior Citizens' Center, 8952 W. 2700 South. A second forum will take place August 27, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at Arizona State University West.